Design Course

Introduction to Drawing - Basics

Fundamentals of Drawing

by
Gayathri Jeaks and Prof. Ravi Poovaiah
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
https://www.dsource.in/course/introduction-drawing-basics

1. Introduction
2. Warm-up
3. Bettering Hand Control
4. Gesture Drawing
5. Design Tools
6. Contact Details

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Introduction

Drawing is a major form of visual expression since the prehistoric ages. Through the years we have seen its various expressions in the form of paintings, illustrations and other media.

As a tool, drawing plays an important role in the design process. It is also the quickest medium to communicate design ideas. It also helps the designer to put forward multiple ideas, starting out with basic concepts and loose drawings, then further exploring those concepts into detailed and concrete sketches.

In this course, we will take you through the essential drawing exercises to improve the drawing skills at any level

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of drawing ability. Various mediums are employed to enhance hand control and hand-eye coordination.

The exercises that are covered in this module are:

- Exercises to loosen up the hands
- Exercises to better hand control
- Gesture drawing

Essential tools required for the exercises:

- Full imperial newsprint sheet or newspaper
- A3 sheets
- Soft pencils
- Size 2 or 4 brush and ink
- Charcoal blocks

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Warm-up

Like any other exercise, drawing should also begin with a little bit of a warm-up. Without warm up, the hand will feel particularly stiff and rigid. Warm up also helps in loosening up the hands for fearless drawing.

Exercise 1:
Drawing horizontal and vertical lines

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Draw straight lines across the sheet, one-line parallel to the other. Draw vertical lines in the same sheet and repeat the process.

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Exercise 2:
Drawing spirals

Draw spirals, big and small in clockwise and counter clockwise direction.

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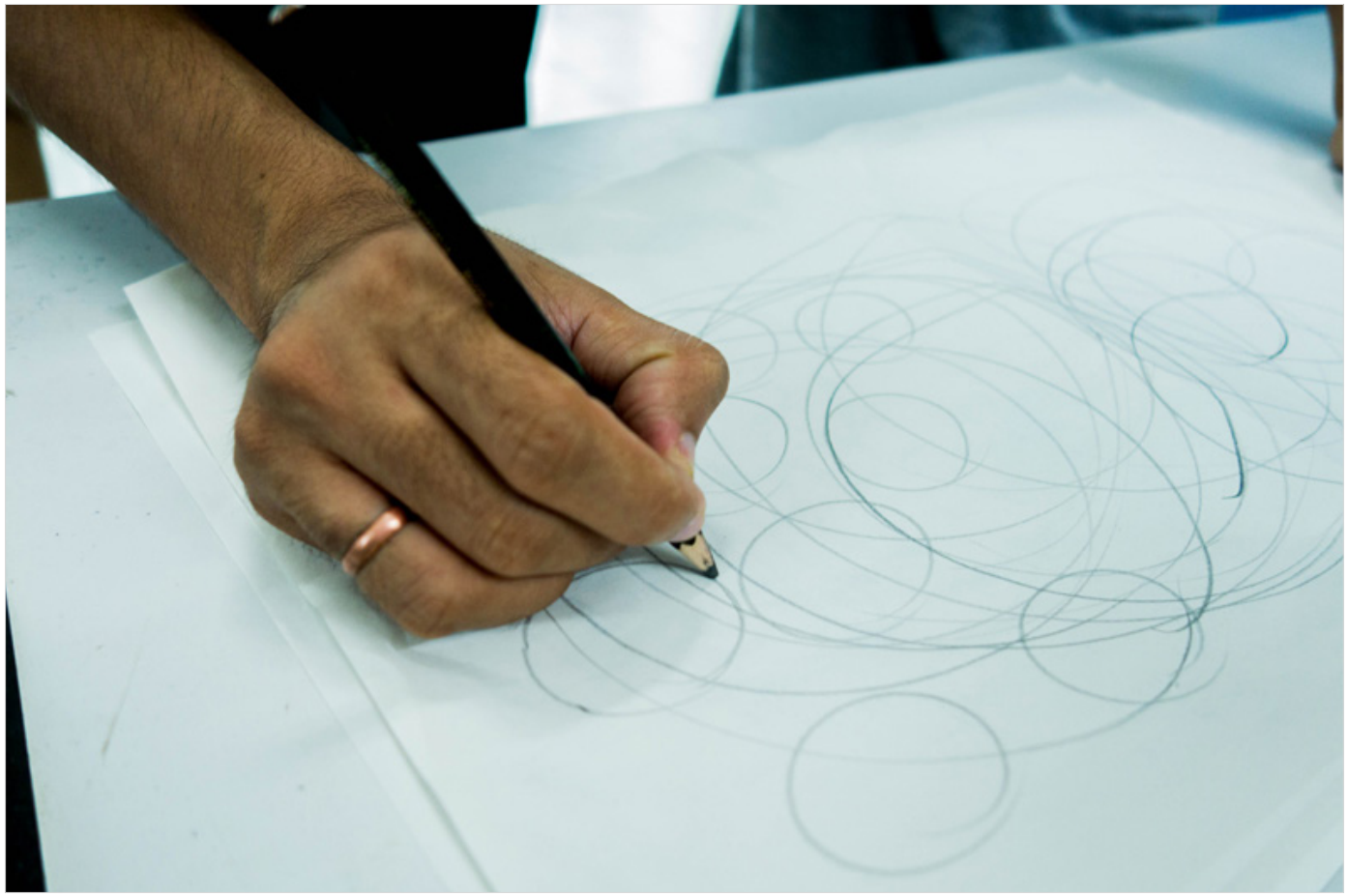
Exercise 3:
Drawing circles



Draw circles, big and small with the hand movement shifting between clockwise and counter clockwise direction.

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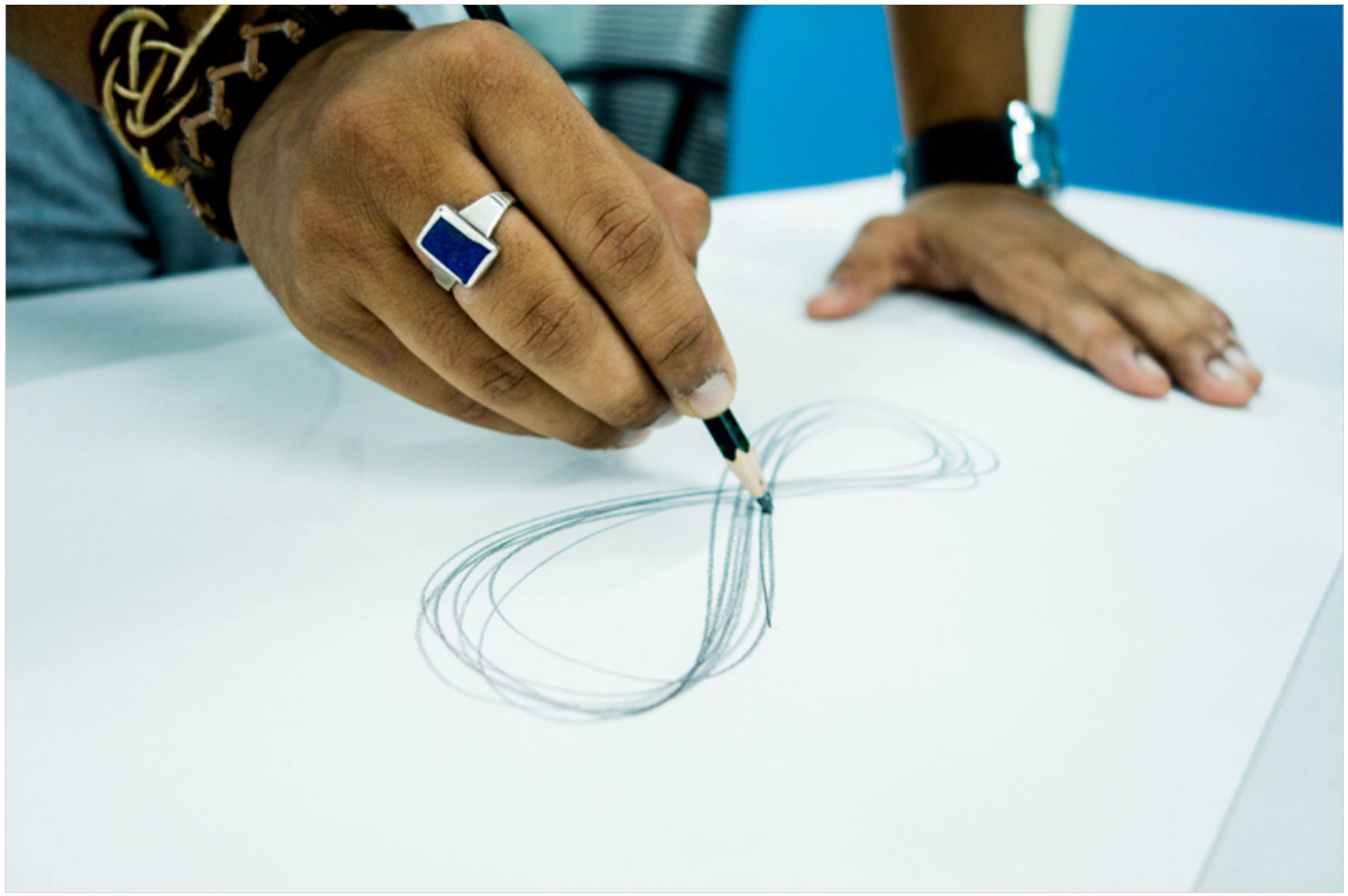
Exercise 4:
Drawing infinity symbol



Draw the infinity symbol in one continuous motion.

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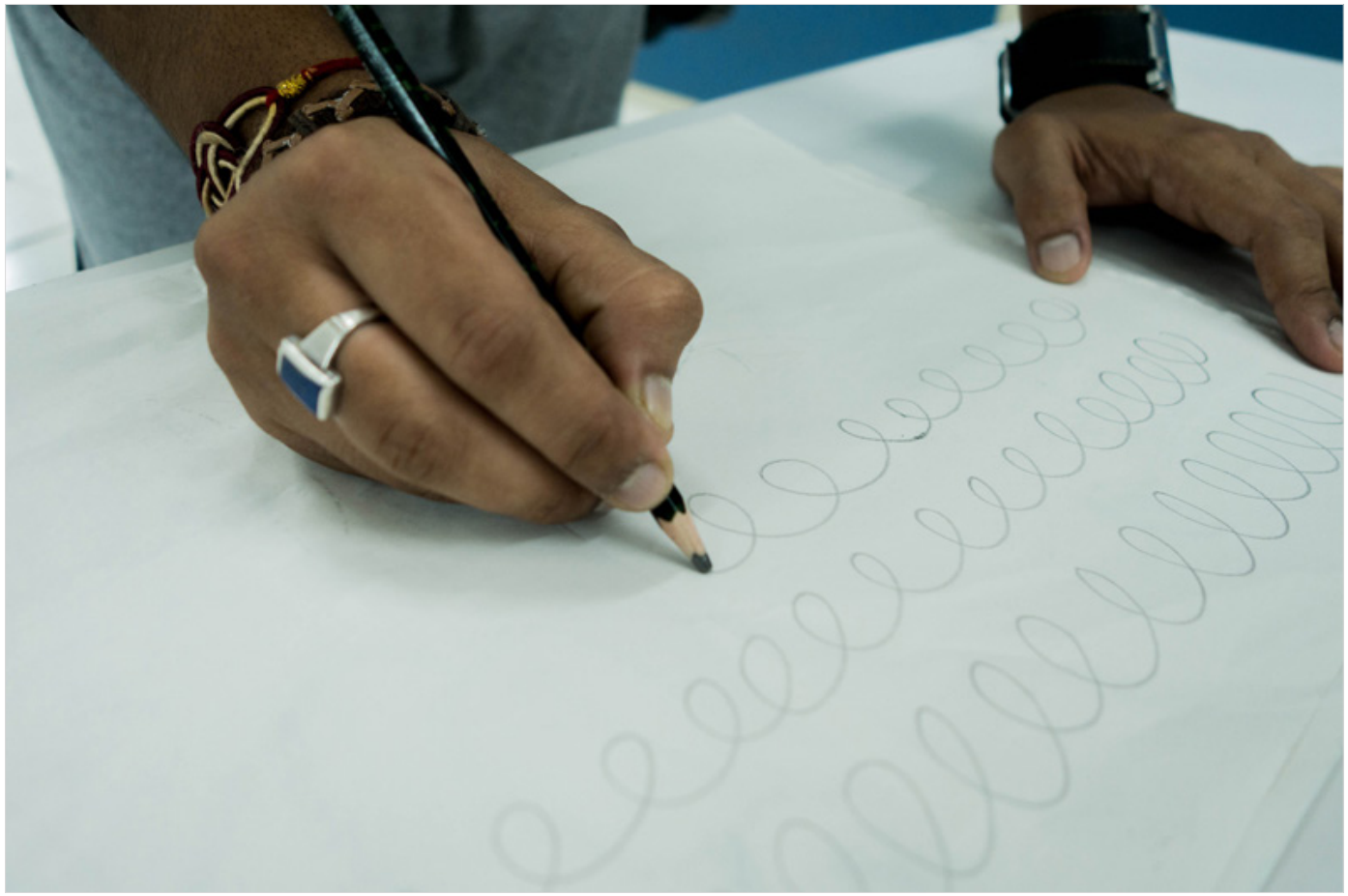
Exercise 5:
Drawing wavy lines



Draw wavy lines in horizontal, vertical and diagonal direction.

The above exercise has to be done daily on a full imperial newsprint sheet or a newspaper for 10 - 15 minutes using a soft pencil.

Posture tip:
Stand upright, with hand movement starting from the shoulder; not from the wrists or elbows.

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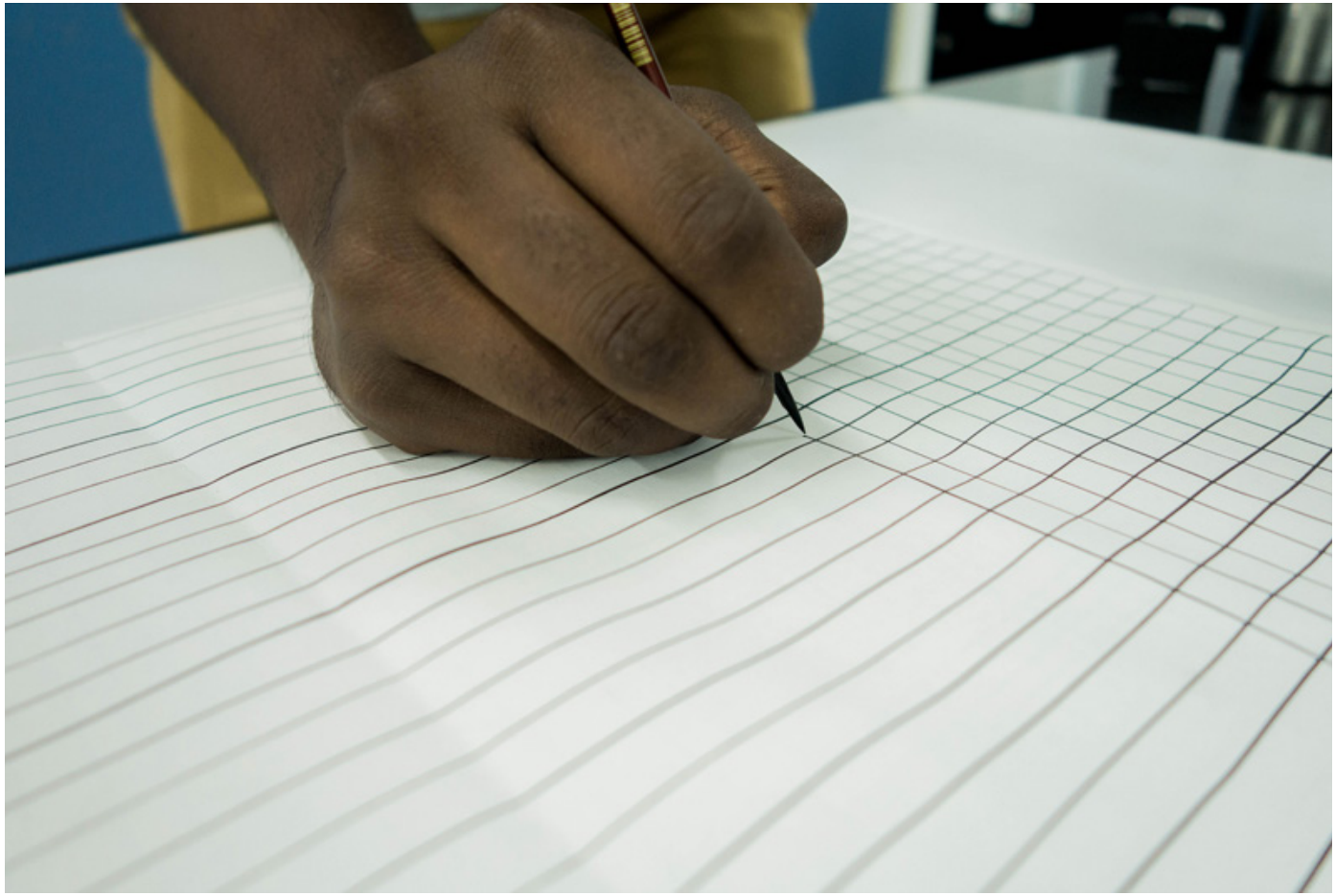
Bettering Hand Control

We level up the warm-up exercises by using brush and ink, and further advance into drawing basic geometric forms using the same. Using brush and ink will force better sensitivity to the drawings and hence improve hand control.

Exercise 1:
Drawing lines, circles and waves using brush and ink.



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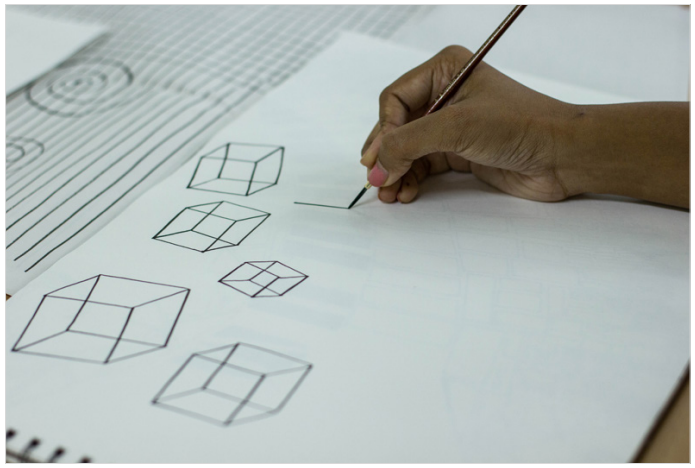
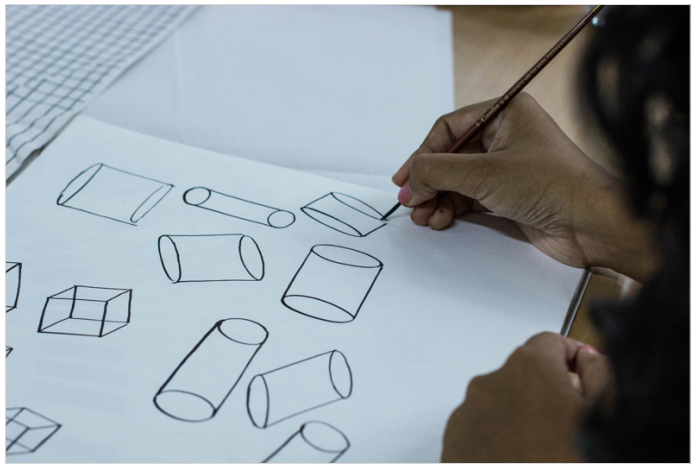
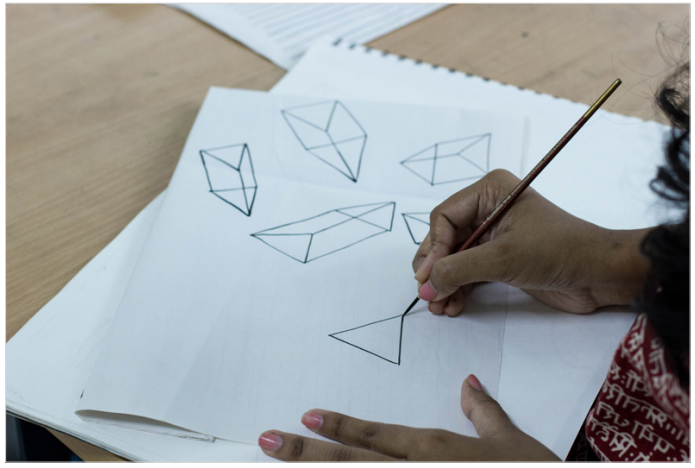
Exercise 2:
Drawing basic geometric forms using brush and ink.







The above exercise should be done on A3 sheets for 10 - 15 minutes utilizing the brush and ink.

Posture tip:
Stand upright, with hand movement starting from the shoulder; not from the wrists or elbows.

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Gesture Drawing

Gesture drawings are quick and rough drawings which capture the essential details of a subject. It is never meant to be a mere anatomical reproduction. It is the gateway to more purposeful and deliberate drawing and they are done to improve our instinctive drawing skills. The minimalistic drawing approach improves the hand eye coordination as well as speed.

Here, the gesture drawings are done to understand the line of action and the movement and form of the subject.

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Exercise 1:
Drawing the figure, posed for a minute.

Exercise 2:
Drawing the figure, posed for 30 seconds.

The above exercise can be done on an A3 drawing pad for 15 - 30 minutes.

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Design Tools

Elements of Design:

Elements of Design is a design learning tool developed by IDC, IIT Bombay. It is an interactive web space where students and aspiring designers can learn about the basics of design. The tool's Overview shows us the interrelation between the elements of design - point, line, plane and volume. The elements have features like - shape, size, position, orientation, texture and colour.

Together these form the Visual features. Understanding these well is helpful for studying and applying the principles of design. A designer has to use principles of design in combinations to make a piece which functions/ communicates clearly and effectively. In our tool, we learn about principles of design through two categories, structural and relational. All principles related to construction of a design are included in structural principles.

This section includes concepts such as negative and positive space, figure and ground, alignment, proportion, symmetry, repetition, grids, illusion and framing. All principles that are relative i.e. need another element to be compared with are included in Relational Principles. This section includes concepts such as movement, depth, order, hierarchy, sequence, balance, unity, emphasis contrast and variety.

For more information visit: https://dsource.in/tool/element_of_design/

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Contact Details

This documentation was done by Gayathri Jeaks at IDC, IIT Bombay.

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